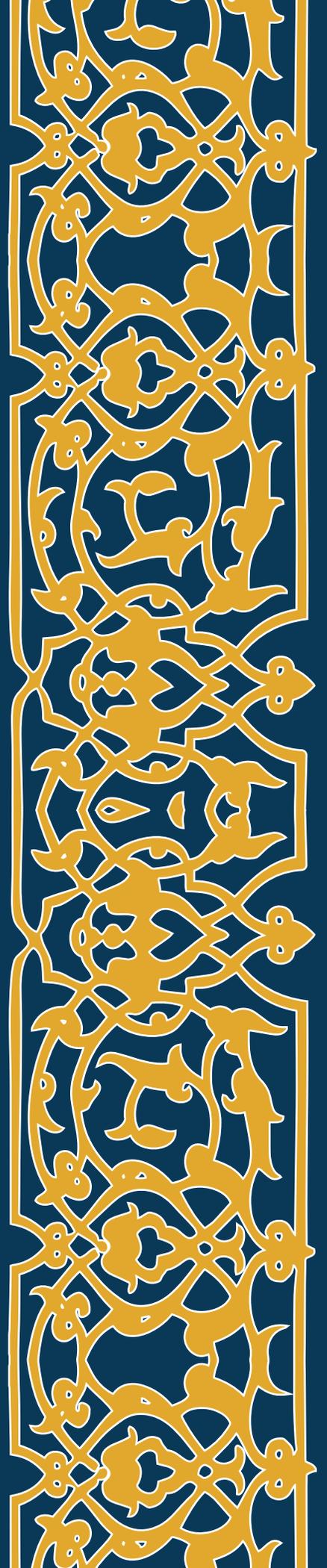




National  
Council  
on US-  
Arab  
Relations

2015  
Annual  
Review



# National Council on US- Arab Relations



Founded in 1983, the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is an American non-profit, non-governmental, educational organization dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab world. The Council has been granted public charity status in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

## Vision

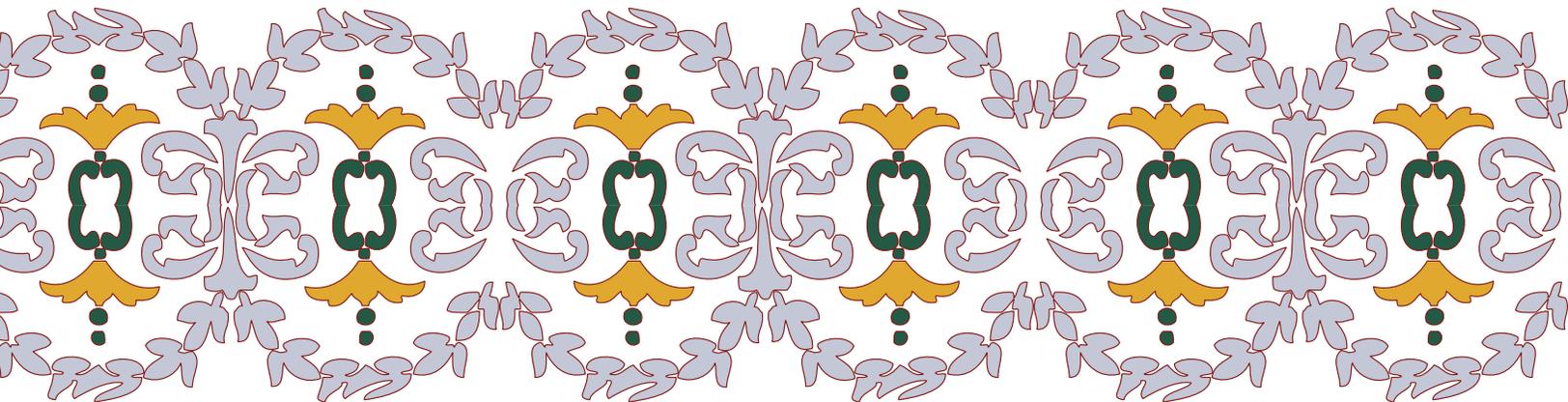
The National Council's *vision* is a relationship between the United States and its Arab partners, friends, and allies that rests on as solid and enduring a foundation as possible. Such a foundation, viewed from both ends of the spectrum, is one that would be characterized by strengthened and expanded strategic, economic, political, commercial, and defense cooperation ties; increased joint ventures; a mutuality of benefit; reciprocal respect for each other's heritage and values; and overall acceptance of each other's legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and objectives.

## Mission

The National Council's *mission* is educational. It seeks to enhance American awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the Arab countries, the Mideast, and the Islamic world. Its means for doing so encompass but are not limited to programs for leadership development, people-to-people exchanges, lectures, publications, an annual Arab-U.S. policymakers conference, and the participation of American students and faculty in Arab world study experiences. As a public service, the Council also serves as an information clearinghouse and participant in national, state, and local grassroots outreach to media, think tanks, and select community, civic, educational, business, and professional associations. In these ways the Council helps strengthen and expand the overall Arab-U.S. relationship.

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## About the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Founded in 1983, the National Council is an American educational, non-profit, and non-governmental organization. The Council is dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab world one person at a time through TEN annual programs, events, and activities.

**First**, the National Council is committed to educating, training, and developing the leadership skills of the current and emerging generation of Americans tasked with improving the overall U.S.-Arab relationship. From one Council leadership development effort alone, the [Model Arab League Program](#), there are more than 40,000 alumni. The number of participants in the **Council's 21 annual Models** – through 2015, held in 17 cities throughout the United States and in Egypt, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia – is over 2,200. Illustrative of the increasing national and international recognition of the leadership skills that this one Council program provides its participants is the following: contributions from supporters enabled the Council to administer **three additional Models in 2014-2015**. As evidence of the extraordinary value that comes through participation in the Models, all Council staff members are graduates of this program. Each has exhibited the sterling leadership qualities necessary for helping to strengthen



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[Arabia, the Gulf,  
& the GCC Blog](#)



U.S.-GCC  
CORPORATE  
COOPERATION  
COMMITTEE

and expand the youth component of the Arab-U.S. relationship; for exercising discipline and organization; for analyzing clearly and effectively; for speaking lucidly and forcefully in addition to editing quickly and efficaciously; for managing time in composing and fulfilling results-oriented agendas; for building coalitions in support of one's views and new ideas as well as existing schools of thought; and for acquiring the attributes of tolerance and respect for the opinions of others that may differ from one's own. Of special note is that in the past year, 36 young American alumni of the Council's Model Arab League Program received National Council Study Abroad Fellowships and Washington, DC Internships as a result of their participation in the Models.

**Second**, the National Council is the world's only organization to have administered, for 24 years and counting, an annual [Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference](#). The Conference brings together many of the world's foremost American and Arab specialists. The scope and focus of their contributions encompass the multiple dynamics of the overall relationship between the United States and Arab governments, economies, and societies. For each of the past four years the Conference has drawn record numbers of more than 1,200 registrants. Through coverage for four of the past six years by C-SPAN, annual attendance



Former U.S. Congressman Paul Findley, a founding Member of the National Council's Advisory Board and since 2014 its Co-Chairman, pictured here with Dr. John Duke Anthony in 1985, served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 22 years, representing the 20th District of Illinois. In 2013, the Council presented Congressman Findley its first-ever Distinguished Public Service and Lifetime Achievement Award.

by other television satellite and radio broadcast networks plus dozens of print media outlets, and also through the Council's website at [ncusar.org](http://ncusar.org), additional millions have been able to benefit from the proceedings.

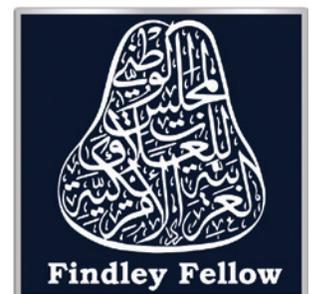
A *third* National Council annual highlight is its ten-week intensive [University Student Summer Internship Program](#) in the nation's capital. In 2015 alone the Council educated, trained, and developed the leadership skills of **5 interns during the academic year and 25 interns in the summer**. In cooperation with The George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs, the program was administered for the seventh consecutive year in association with 18 sister organizations in the District of

Columbia. The internship provides a professional work experience and a series of site visits to, meetings with, and briefings by representatives of Arab embassies, Congress, the Supreme Court, the Department of State, and other institutions. The internship also includes participation in the world's only known 20-part seminar on "Arabia, the Gulf, the GCC, and the U.S.-Arab Relationship." In the seminar the interns not only learn to read and write weekly analyses and critiques of publications by some of the world's most renowned authors. They also meet

and are briefed by a dozen of the assigned topics' most accomplished role models. Among them are scholars, former Ambassadors, career Foreign Service officers, and other specialists of both genders, many of whom agree to serve as the interns' informal mentors.

Among the exciting features of the National Council's University Student Summer Internship Program, in which 25 interns participate annually, are the *Findley Fellowships*, which were first instituted in 2014. The Fellowships are

In 2014 the National Council instituted the Findley Fellowship Award to recognize outstanding participants in the Council's University Student Summer Internship Program. Students honored as Findley Fellows are presented this lapel pin and their names are displayed prominently on a wall in the National Council's entry foyer in recognition of their achievement.



presented at the end of the program to the most outstanding interns. The awardees are selected for having met four multifaceted criteria. First, they must have demonstrated on a regular basis the trait of excellence in the program's academic component. Second, they are required to manifest the skills of organization, productivity, research, analysis, assessment, composition, writing, and editing within tightly prescribed deadlines. Third, they are expected to display an ability to role play as Arab diplomats in a simulated introduction to Arab challenges and opportunities. Fourth, they must have exhibited throughout the seminar the critical thinking and communications skills as well as the moral, leadership, educational, and, especially, extraordinary traits of courage and commitment associated with the life and works of Congressman Paul Findley. (Information on a documentary film about Paul Findley can be found in *Council Chronicle Vol. 9, No. 2*). If the reader concludes that only an exceptional few individuals in the average 18 to 24 age range are likely to possess all four of the traits noted, it would be because of precisely that: Findley Fellowship awardees are indeed exceptional, which is exactly the kind of Arab-U.S. relations leader that is needed and that the National Council seeks to recruit, educate, train, and help develop.

In retirement soon after leaving office, Congressman Findley wrote *They Dared to Speak*

*Out*, an award-winning account of more than two dozen nationally prominent Americans from all walks of life. Each of the individuals profiled had the courage of their convictions. They did not shy away from the duty to speak publicly and write for publication in an effort to set aright America's relations with its Arab friends, allies, and strategic partners. And like Congressman Findley himself, they were often subjected to name calling, slander, defamation of character, and forced prematurely to withdraw from public life early for doing so.

A *fourth* National Council program is designed to contribute positively to national public and private sector conversations about American policies, positions, attitudes, and actions toward the Arab world and its peoples. To this end, the Council administers year-round a series of seminars on Capitol Hill and in other venues. In each instance, one or more internationally recognized specialists is tasked with analyzing, assessing, and recommending more effective American approaches to dealing

with some of the most important challenges confronting American and Arab policymakers. The seminars, usually held in Congressional hearing rooms, are typically filled to capacity. In attendance are Members of Congress, Congressional staff, media representatives, research and publications specialists in prominent public policy research institutes, members of the diplomatic corps, and other foreign affairs practitioners.



H.E. Mohammad Jaham Al Kuwari, Ambassador of Qatar to the United States, addresses a National Council Congressional Briefing Event in the Rayburn House of Representatives Office Building.

The National Council is committed to building, maintaining, and wherever possible strengthening and expanding the human, institutional, and programmatic bridges between and among the American and Arab public and private sectors.

A *fifth* National Council activity is a specialized publications program. For the past eight years, the Council has achieved this, in part, through the *Council Chronicle*, which appears four times a year, and through an *Annual Review*. Still another feature of the Council’s publications outreach and continuing efforts to provide perspective on matters pertaining to the overall Arab-U.S. relationship, and to Arabia and the Gulf in particular, is the Council’s blog: *Arabia, the Gulf, and the GCC*, which features cutting-edge analyses by Council Founding President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, Dr. Imad Harb, and other specialists. Visit the blog at: [ncusar.org/blog](http://ncusar.org/blog). Additionally, conceived in 2015 and launched in 2016 was a National Council online publication series, titled *National Council Analyses & Assessments*, that regularly features articles on an aspect of U.S.-Arab relations or the Arab world. The series seeks to deliver unique insights and commentary on contemporary affairs and policies. It also seeks to provide a forum for pieces on broader issues such as the position, role, and rights of women, water, national security, climate change, economic reform, and Islamophobia. Read articles at: [ncusar.org/aa](http://ncusar.org/aa).

A *sixth* National Council activity is organizing and providing scholarly escorts

for delegations of American leaders on study visits to one or more Arab countries — in 2015 to Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

A *seventh* National Council activity is a public service in the form of facilitating the participation of American students and faculty in Arabic language and area study learning experiences in Lebanon, Morocco, and Oman.

An *eighth* National Council activity is its ongoing participation in year-round heads of organizations meetings. These forums, which began under the Council’s auspices in 1991 in the aftermath of the reversal of Iraq’s aggression against Kuwait,



National Council Founding President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony (left) bestows the Council’s first-ever Global Corporate Leadership Award on HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (right) in November 2013.

periodically gather the CEOs and other key representatives of like-minded organizations that are committed to strengthening and expanding the overall Arab-U.S. relationship. Beyond deepening the bonds of trust, confidence, and a willingness to join forces in pursuit of common goals, the meetings in themselves demonstrate how vital donor support remains to these organizations' operations. Most important, they provide evidence to the respective organizations' "shareholders" that their financial, in-kind, and other investments in and contributions to what the organizations seek to accomplish have not been and are not in vain.

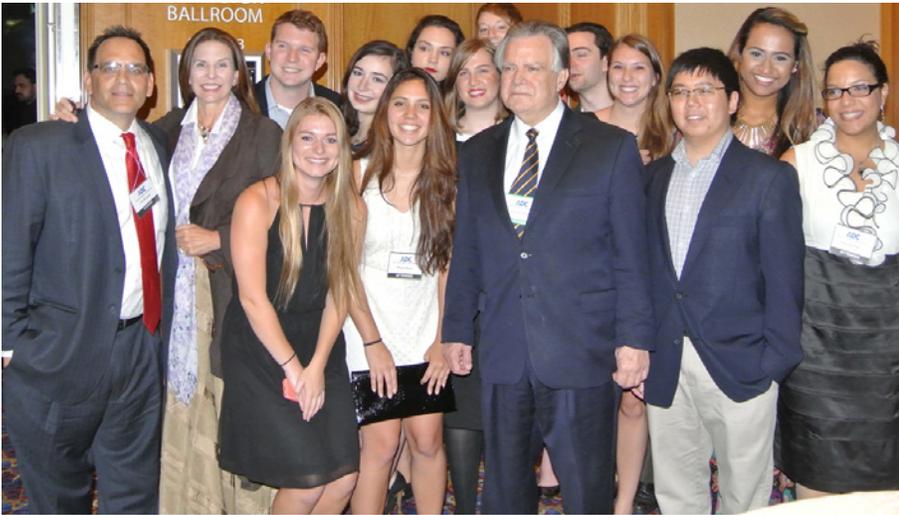
A *ninth* and most recent National Council activity is its President and CEO's serving as Chair of the *North American Bridge Network* (NABN). Established in April 2015 by HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal and comprised of six American non-profit educational and social activism organizations, the network endeavors to fulfill the programmatic activities supported by Alwaleed Philanthropies. In a letter to Dr. Anthony, HRH Prince Alwaleed, who appointed Dr. Anthony to serve as the NABN's Chair, wrote, "We are proud of what our partnership and our North American Bridge Network Initiative have achieved in a wide range of activities. My contribution to the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is a continuation of a lifelong effort to build bridges, foster cultural understanding, develop communities, empower women, enable youth, and to provide vital disaster



2016 National University Model Arab League awardees with the League of Arab States Washington Office Director Mr. Sameh Al Fonse and Dr. Anthony.

relief. In all, I wish to promote a more tolerant and accepting world. It is a commitment without boundaries – a commitment to all of humanity."

A *tenth* National Council endeavor – the establishment of the first-ever Arab Cultural Institute in the nation's capital – is as yet more a project than a program, more a dream and a vision than as yet a reality, although in time it is designed to be that and far more. For the better part of the past 20 years Dr. Anthony, the proposed institute's visionary conceptualizer, has sought to obtain appropriate support for the idea and its implementation. To date, the project has received the informal and unofficial support of the Arab country cultural attachés and embassies' representatives of the League of Arab States' office in Washington. Representatives of appropriate agencies and officials of the U.S. government, in informal meetings and briefings, not only have acknowledged the national and pressing need for such an institute. They have also noted its innumerable, multifaceted, and potentially beneficial attributes. These include, first and foremost, enhancement of the awareness,



strategic dialogues between the United States and numerous Arab countries, together with increased exchanges and the development of Arab-U.S. relations skills among current and emerging American and Arab leaders. The envisioned Arab Cultural Institute will provide a cultural-centric forum for enhancing the Arab-U.S. relationship at many different levels.

\* \* \* \* \*

The National Council's *mission* is educational. It is committed to building, maintaining, and wherever possible strengthening and expanding the human, institutional, and programmatic bridges between and among the American and Arab public and private sectors. The Council seeks, in particular, to heighten and deepen American awareness and appreciation of the extraordinary range of benefits that the United States and the American people have long obtained, and continue to derive, from the overall U.S.-Arab relationship. But one among many hallmarks of the Council's mission is its emphasis on the publication and dissemination of documented facts.

National Council Founding President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony (center), Executive Vice President Patrick Mancino (left), and Board Member Paige Peterson (2nd from left), with students from the Council's Washington, DC Summer Internship Program after Dr. Anthony received the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee's 2014 Distinguished Service Award.  
Photo: Washington Report on Middle East Affairs.

knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the dynamic *cultural* dimensions of the longstanding Arab-U.S. relationship. A summary description of the project and the underlying rationale for the establishment of such an institution is available on pages 9-10.

\* \* \* \* \*

Running through all of the National Council's programmatic works, activities, and other public services is the Council's vision for the U.S.-Arab relationship. The Council's *vision* is anchored in the legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and key foreign policy objectives of the American and Arab peoples. Resting on a solid and enduring foundation of cultural, strategic, economic, political, commercial, defense, and people-to-people cooperation, the vision encompasses the belief that the relationship is strengthened continuously by a range of richly rewarding efforts by people on both sides. Chief amongst these are the newly institutionalized and diverse

In pursuit of its mission, the National Council serves as a U.S.-Arab relations programmatic, human resources, and leadership development clearinghouse. In so doing, it provides cutting-edge information, insight, and learning opportunities for national, state, and local grassroots educational organizations, media, and public policy research institutes in addition to select community civic, business, and professional associations.

## An Arab Cultural Institute in the Heart of the Nation's Capital

*Washington, DC is host to numerous museums and cultural institutions – but none that feature the culture, development, economics, history, and societies of Arab countries. Neither is there a major center in the heart of the national capital that showcases the extraordinary range of Arab contributions to science and technology – indeed, to the world's civilizations and to humankind in general. An Arab Cultural Institute will do justice to these topics, to Arabs, and to America's relationship with this vitally important part of the world.*

### Fast Facts

- ▶ The Arab Cultural Institute will have permanent and temporary exhibits on Arab countries' culture and distinctive characteristics in addition to administering high quality educational programs together with special events and activities;
- ▶ In addition to its permanent, rotating, and special exhibitions, the Institute will feature space for the national day commemoration and events year-round for each of the 22 Arab countries. There will also be a conference hall, an auditorium, a library with research facilities, and meeting rooms for seminars, lectures, poetry readings, film screenings, book signings, and concerts;
- ▶ The Institute will offer visitors a bookstore/gift shop, a café and/or restaurant, a prayer room, and world-class museum items showcasing Arab historical monuments, archeological treasures, literary masterpieces, and examples of the innumerable, extraordinary, and myriad impacts that Arabs have had on humanity's endless quest for modernization and development as well as the relations of Arabs with other world regions and cultures, and vice versa;
- ▶ The Institute will ideally be in a prime location in the center of Washington within walking distance of the National Mall as well as the White House and easily accessible to the Metro and other public transportation;
- ▶ A management team comprised of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, in association with the League of Arab States' office in the United States and cultural attachés from the various Arab embassies, is working with American and Arab business and diplomatic leaders as well as the world's foremost museum designers, engineers, and architects to plan and administer the Institute.



## Benefits to Arabs

- ▶ The Arab Cultural Institute will undoubtedly do much to correct the many false images of Arabs among key groups in the United States by addressing widespread myths and stereotypes;
- ▶ The Institute will likely be visited by most Members of Congress, their principal staff, and large numbers of senior and mid-level representatives of the U.S. Executive Branch;
- ▶ The Institute will serve as a forum for representatives from the media, think tanks, lobbies, professional associations, and other institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. It will provide cultural and educational services for universities and history, geography, and social studies teachers as well as their students not only in the District of Columbia area, but also for the thousands of collegiate youth that visit the nation's capital year-round in addition to significant numbers among many of the city's annual 20 million tourists;
- ▶ The Institute will be an important tool to heighten Americans' interest in and appreciation of Arab culture, Arab civilization, and the Arabic language, thereby providing current and future leaders a more educated and accurate portrayal of Arabs and the position and role of Arab countries and their peoples in regional and world affairs;
- ▶ The opportunities for the Arab Cultural Institute to aid pan-Arab cooperation and American-Arab engagement will be limited only by the imagination.

## Broader Significance

The potential appeal of an Arab Cultural Institute in the nation's capital to large numbers of Americans and visitors to Washington from every country is obvious. Also obvious is that the Institute's contents and programming will enhance American knowledge and understanding of Arab and Islamic culture and the world's indebtedness to the manifold contributions to the betterment of humanity that countless numbers of Arabs have made.

Of monumental significance is that the Arab Cultural Institute's contributions will occur in the center of the world's most technologically advanced, economically wealthiest, financially influential, and militarily powerful country.

The Institute will foster international education cooperation, tolerance, and respect for other peoples and their cultures. And it will demonstrate the belief in and commitment to increasing and ever-strengthening American-Arab ties across a broad range of mutual endeavors.

With the launching of the Institute, the United States and the Arab peoples will be celebrating the onset of a new chapter in their relations.

## Model Arab League: Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program

2015 marked the 32nd year of the National Council's flagship Arab-U.S. Student Leadership Development Program, *the Model Arab League (MAL)*. The Models are similar in organization and format to the older and more widely recognized Model United Nations, with its 193 members. However, the MAL focuses exclusively on the 22 member countries that comprise the League of Arab States. Established in February 1945, and thereby pre-dating the founding of the United Nations, the Arab League is the world's oldest regional political organization dedicated to, among other things, the diplomatic and peaceful

settlement of disputes.

The Models provide primarily American but also Arab and other international students opportunities to develop invaluable leadership skills. In few if any other ways elsewhere in the United States do students have a comparable chance to work with their fellows for common goals and shared interests. Among the 18 sister NGOs with which the National Council has a cooperative relationship, and among America's 2,968 colleges and universities, participation in the Models, like nothing else, provides students an opportunity to



Students from universities throughout the United States and other countries convene to vote on a resolution during the final “summit” session at the National University Model Arab League at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

develop, learn, and practice their leadership skills with regard to Arab world issues and challenges – skills that serve one well in any walk of life. No other known opportunity allows emerging leaders – to anywhere near the same extent – to learn firsthand what it is like to be and perform in the shoes of Arab diplomats and other foreign affairs practitioners. In the process, the students come to realize how different these international relations realities are from what they previously thought and, often inaccurately, assumed to be true.

Given the contemporary state of world affairs, the fact that the National Council enables thousands of American, Arab, and other youths to grapple with the legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and key international goals of a government other than their own, and especially that of an Arab country, has obvious and enduring merit. Students not only deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Arab world and its peoples. They also develop and practice useful analytical, organizational, writing, editing, and public speaking skills. In so doing they strengthen their ability to engage in the art of reasoned argument and spirited debate, while honing and refining their leadership attributes and effectiveness. For many students, such opportunities are often unavailable or exceptionally difficult to acquire in the course of reading a book, viewing films, videos, or television, listening to a specialist, participating in academic classes, attending briefings, or accessing the Internet.

## Educating, Training, and Developing Tomorrow's Arab-U.S. Relations Leaders

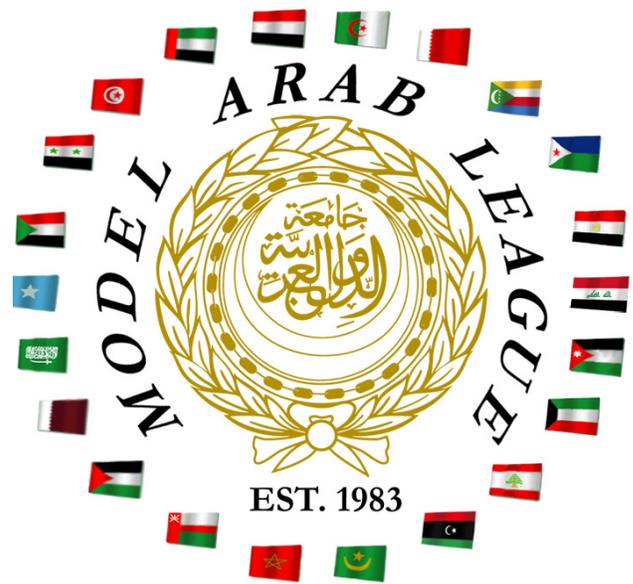
The Models enhance students' abilities to discuss and debate the national and regional cultural, defense, economic, political, social, and related issues and policies of the Arab countries they choose to represent. They do so using parliamentary procedure. In the process the students wrangle



Students receive awards for outstanding representation of their country's policies and positions from former Arab League Ambassador H.E. Mohammed Al Hussaini Al Sharif.

with one another over a broad and diverse range of policy-centric challenges and opportunities. An example is the proper course of policy formulation and action with regard to Palestinian affairs. Other examples include issues related to governance, security, stability, and development in such countries as Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, and the six GCC countries. Still others focus on Syria, Yemen, and matters pertaining to human rights, justice, defense cooperation, and the environment.

As in real-life public policy debates, the prospects for the participants' success turn on several factors. Each is a key component of effective leadership. One is the extent to which the participants have prepared. Another is the degree to which they are – and can remain – as organized, disciplined, and focused as possible. They must also be able to advocate their viewpoints with facts, clear oral and written expression, and the passion of their convictions as well as all the logic, strength of argument, and erudition they can muster. What is more, participants have to try to be as effective as they can within prescribed requirements and procedures, including tight time constraints. For example, in keeping with established rules of order, the Models' Secretaries General, Assistant Secretaries General, and Standing Council Chairs (each of whom is elected by their peers) are responsible for ensuring that debates keep to time variants of 45 seconds, one minute, three minutes,



Participants in the National Council's Model Arab League Program use parliamentary procedure to debate the issues and policies of the Arab countries they choose to represent.

and/or, at the Secretary General's discretion, a maximum of five minutes. In addition, for student

participants interested in the possibility of a career in journalism or other media fields, there are parallel opportunities to sharpen their reporting and writing skills. To that end, they participate in mock press conferences and the drafting of communiqués for publication during the Model's proceedings.

For the students involved, there is no denying either the rarity or the human resource development value of such an enterprise. In the field of Arab-U.S. relations, only the Models provide



Members of the Model Arab League Student Secretariat serve as Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Rapporteurs on a variety of intra-Model councils as well as assist with overall conference administration. Here two such student leaders display their gavels and certificates of outstanding participation at the National High School Model at Georgetown University.



Model Arab League (MAL) delegations from (left) Converse College, with their Faculty Adviser, Malone Fellow alumnus Dr. Joe Dunn, and (right) Northeastern University, with their Faculty Adviser, Malone Fellow alumnus Dr. Philip D'Agati, display awards for outstanding team delegations at the National University Model Arab League in Washington, DC. Students from Converse and Northeastern have participated in National Council study visits to Qatar and Saudi Arabia as a result of their notable performances in various different Models.

the coming generation of tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to practice and master what it takes to become proficient in public affairs abilities. Participants are unique in more than nature and number. Performing under the watchful eyes of their faculty advisers and adult judges, they are eager to prove to themselves, their teachers, and their families that they are worth the investment made to enable them to participate in – and reap the rewards from – this one-of-a-kind component of their education and leadership development. To that end there is no way around the students' having to study hard, conduct serious research, and prepare as effectively as they can in advance of the Models. Doing so, like nothing else, will enhance the prospects of their winning awards for their performance.

## Strengthening and Expanding Arab-U.S. People-to-People Ties

First-time readers of the *Council Chronicle* often ask why, in some cities, there is more than one Model. The answer has to do with the immense popularity of this program. Students want to participate in it

year after year for as long as they can. A result is that at the end of numerous Models most of the student and faculty participants immediately register to participate in the next year's Model at the same venue, leaving little if any room for new universities and students to participate. Students newly aware of such opportunities and who want to participate would therefore be unable to do so if not for new Models being continuously established. In this way, the early 1980s original number of slightly more than 100 participants in a single city has grown more than twenty-fold – to more than 2,200 per year in 17 cities – and continues to increase.

Beyond the proven education, training, and leadership development skills and achievements that are the hallmarks of the Models' experience, a further incentive in recent years has been student and faculty awareness of the increasing number of additional benefits for which Model alumni and their faculty advisers become eligible. Indeed, participation in the Models has become a gateway for Model delegates and advisers to win National Council study abroad scholarships and fellowships. Such awards grant the recipients entry into the Council's Annual University and

High School Student Summer Internship Programs in the nation's capital; the Council's Arabic Language and Study Abroad Programs in Lebanon, Morocco, and Oman; and the Council's study visits to Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

*In the past year, 36 young American alumni of the National Council's Model Arab League Program received, as a result of their participation in the Models, internships in the nation's capital and all-expenses-paid study abroad fellowships in Qatar and Saudi*

**In 2015, 36 students and 23 faculty advisers from the Model Arab League Program received, as a result of their participation in the Models, internships in the nation's capital and all-expenses-paid study abroad fellowships in Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.**

*Arabia.* For the students, acceptance and fulfillment of the requirements of these awards enabled them to strengthen their Arab-U.S. leadership skills in preparation for careers in international affairs and service in their country's public and private sectors.

*In addition, 23 Model Arab League faculty advisers received all-expenses-paid fellowships that allowed them, too, to participate in Council study visits to Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.* The faculty advisers' participation in such experiences has



Students vote on a resolution in the Social Affairs Council at the Ohio Valley Model Arab League.



Students who participate in the Model Arab League receive priority consideration for enrollment in (left) the National Council's Washington, DC University Student Summer Internship Program. Additionally, students and faculty advisers from the Model Arab League Program are eligible to join (right) select Council educational study visits to Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

enabled them not only to strengthen and diversify their teaching, writing, research, and public speaking expertise. It has also enriched the global component of their universities' campus atmosphere and overall curricula.

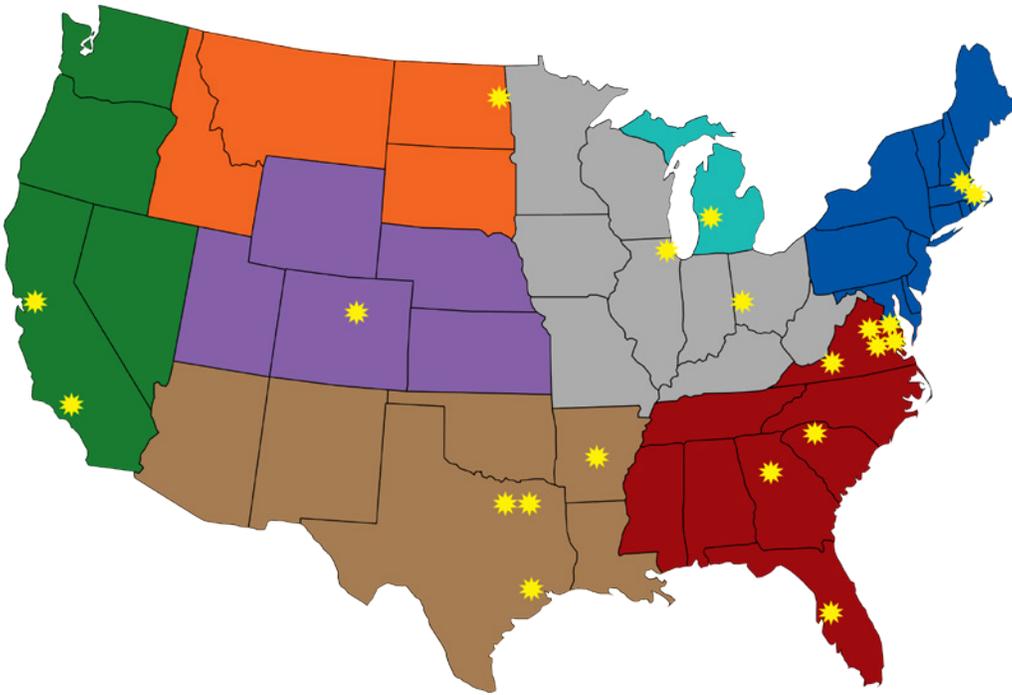
The National Council's 2015 ten-week Washington, DC University Student Summer Internship Program combined professional work experiences in international affairs organizations with an academic seminar on Arabia and the Gulf; *six of the 25 interns were MAL alumni*. For the eighth year in succession, the academic portion of the program – chaired and directed by Dr. Anthony, who addressed the interns eight times – was held at The George Washington University's Elliot School of International Affairs. *A special feature of the 2015 Internship Program was the holding of a summer Model Arab League at Georgetown University.*

***In the National Council's cultural immersion visits to Saudi Arabia and Qatar in 2015, all 15 of the participants in each delegation were MAL Student and Faculty Alumni. In addition to those visits, 13 MAL faculty advisers took part in Council cultural immersion programs in Oman in 2015.***

## Scope and Focus of the National Council's Network for Preparation and Participation

In preparation for participating in a Model, students benefit from the National Council's national network of supporters and volunteers. Each of the participants can also obtain assistance from the Council's staff comprised of Model Arab League Program alumni. Many gain further from contacting the numerous Arab embassies that support the Models. Still other participants are guided by one or more of the faculty advisers in 800 American universities with alumni of the Council's Malone Faculty Fellows in Arab and Islamic Studies Program. What makes the Fellows unique sources of information and insight is their firsthand experience in Arab-U.S. relations derived from participation in the Council's cultural immersion programs in one or more of the Arab countries that, in support of the Council's mission, have hosted the Fellows.

In 2015, the National Council administered 21 Model Arab Leagues, of which 16 were university Models and 5 were high school Models. University Model Arab Leagues were conducted



In 2015, the National Council held Model Arab League conferences in seventeen cities across the United States.

in: Allendale, Michigan at Grand Valley State University; Berkeley, California at the University of California, Berkeley; Boston, Massachusetts at Northeastern University; Commerce, Texas at Texas A&M University-Commerce; Denver,



Model Arab League students not only learn about the history and politics of the Arab world but also develop negotiation and public speaking as well as organization, writing, editing, parliamentary procedure, and coalition-building skills.

Colorado at Metropolitan State University of Denver; Grand Forks, North Dakota at the University of North Dakota; Houston, Texas at the University of Houston Honors College; La Verne, California at the University of La Verne; Oxford, Ohio at Miami University; Roanoke, Virginia at Hollins University; Spartanburg, South Carolina at Converse College; Tampa, Florida at the University of South Florida; and Washington, D.C. at Georgetown University. High School Model Arab Leagues were conducted in: Atlanta,

Georgia at The Marist School; Chicago, Illinois at Carl Schurz High School; Denton, Texas at the University of North Texas; Little Rock, Arkansas at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; and Washington, D.C. at Georgetown University.

As Council President Dr. John Duke Anthony has noted, “We are providing future leaders the experience of being in the shoes of and having to understand someone they might never be able to deal with effectively otherwise.” *“The beneficiaries,”* MAL Program Coordinator Zachary Hrynowski adds, *“are not only America and the world’s coming generation of diplomats, other international relations specialists, business representatives, and educators, but also humanitarians, peace and justice activists, armed services personnel, and future conflict preventers as well as resolvers.”*

## The National Council's Model Arab League Student Leaders Visit Saudi Arabia

The National Council, in partnership with the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM) and the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), organized and escorted a delegation of ten Model Arab League students and five Model Arab League faculty advisers on a cultural immersion study visit to Saudi Arabia from December 27, 2014 to January 6, 2015.

*In the 2014-2015 academic year, over 92,000 Saudi Arabian students were enrolled in American universities in communities large and small across the United States. In contrast, barely a handful of American students have graduated from a university in Saudi Arabia.*

In an effort to help reduce this American deficit in knowledge, understanding, and empirical experience, and in particular with regard to empathy, the National Council has partnered with the SACM and the MOHE to provide a firsthand educational introduction to the Kingdom's culture and society. The beneficiaries are a select group of American students. During the course of the 2014-2015 study visit, the students met with and were briefed by Saudi Arabian educators, business representatives, and civil society leaders, secondary school student participants in the Kingdom's Model Arab League



The National Council's Model Arab League delegation visits Saudi Arabia's Majlis Al-Shura (Consultative Council), which advises the King on issues such as human rights, education, culture, health and social affairs, services and public utilities, foreign affairs, economy and industry, and finance.

Program, and U.S. diplomats. In addition, they visited numerous sites of cultural, developmental, and historical interest.

The study visit's American participants were selected from applicants with outstanding records of research, debate, and leadership in one or more of the National Council's sixteen Model Arab Leagues in 2014. The students were led by Council Founding President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony; Council Board Member, former long-time Saudi Aramco executive, and former Vice



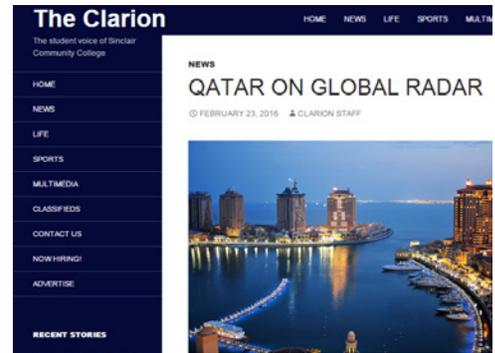
The National Council's Model Arab League delegation visits Mr. Khalid Alturki and Dr. Sally Alturki, founders of the Dhahran Ahliyya School.

President of the American Business Association of the Eastern Province John Pratt; and Council staff members Laura Tucker and Kaylee Boalt. The ten students and five faculty advisers were chosen from a like number of U.S. universities involved in the Models. An additional unique feature of the program was that each of the students had a minimum of two semesters remaining before completion of their undergraduate degree. This ensures their having *a full year to share what they learned in and about Saudi Arabia* with members of their community's civil, business, religious, and professional associations, as well

as the media, in addition to, as a given, their classmates and professors.

As with all National Council Study Abroad Programs, the experience begins with a pre-departure orientation at the Council's Washington, DC office. The objective is threefold: first, to introduce the participants to some of America's and the Kingdom's foremost specialists on Saudi Arabia and the Saudi Arabian-U.S. relationship, with whom the students can follow up and use as a resource; second, to provide the students with what would be hard-to-come-by background, context, and perspective regarding the experience that lies

Upon their return from study visits, Model Arab League students and faculty advisers share what they learned and experienced with their local communities.



ahead of them; and third, to provide examples of how the students can most effectively share their newfound knowledge and understanding with as many people as possible following their return to the United States.

Upon arrival in Saudi Arabia, the 2015 delegation visited Riyadh, the capital, in the Central Province; Dhahran, Saudi Aramco, and Jubail Industrial City – one of the world’s largest and most vital energy industry-centric cities – in the Eastern Province; and Jeddah, long referred to as the “Bride of the Red Sea” and the country’s preeminent commercial center, in the Western Province. The delegation visited and received briefings at the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, the King Abdulaziz Historical Center, the Majlis al-Shura (Consultative Council), Dhahran Ahliyya School, the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh and the U.S. Consulate General in Dhahran, The Jeddah Historic Preservation District, and the

Nafisa Shams Female Academy for Arts & Crafts. They received additional briefings from Dr. Khalid I. Al Awwad, Member of the Majlis al-Shura and its U.S.-Saudi Arabian Friendship Council; Mr. Khalid Alturki and Dr. Sally Alturki, founders of the Dhahran Ahliyya School; Gulf Research Center Founding Chairman Dr. Abdulaziz Sager (see page 21); and Ms. Somayya Jabarti, Editor-in-Chief of *Saudi Gazette*. The delegation also visited many of the Kingdom’s most prominent institutions of higher education, including King Saud University, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Queen Effat University, and King Abdulaziz University. The study visit enabled the participants, to a degree unparalleled by the experiences of most other American university students and their faculty advisers, to meet and interact with Saudi Arabians from all ages and walks of life.



The National Council’s Model Arab League delegation visits Queen Effat University in Jeddah. Established in 1999, the university was the first private institution of higher education for women in Saudi Arabia. It currently offers 13 degree programs and has more than 3,000 bachelors and masters students.

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager is the founding and chief facilitator of the **Annual Gulf Research Meeting (GRM)**. Administered in Great Britain at Cambridge University annually during July and/or August, these three-day events have rapidly become the foremost of their kind. Beginning with an assemblage of more than 100 scholars, authors, and doctoral candidates specializing in one or more facets of the contemporary realities characterizing Arabia and the Gulf, these one-of-a-kind gatherings have grown to accommodate more than 300 participants. They are organized into roughly ten simultaneous mini-seminars with no more than 20 to 30 participants per seminar.



The National Council's Model Arab League delegation met with and was briefed by Gulf Research Center (GRC) Founder and Chairman Dr. Abdulaziz Sager in Jeddah. In 2015 the Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the GRC to collaborate on programs, publications, and activities analyzing the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the GCC's six member countries, Arabia and the Gulf as a whole, and U.S. relations with the region.

In each seminar, as many as half a dozen papers are presented. Led by Dr. Sager, together with Drs. Christian Koch, Mustafa Alani, and others, GRM papers have been published by I.B. Tauris, Palgrave Macmillan, Routledge, and Gerlach. National Council President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, the sole American to have participated in all six of the GRMs since their founding in 2009, commented, "No remotely comparable annual scholarly conference comes close to gathering and concentrating anywhere near as numerous a body of serious scholars on this globally vital region."

Impressive as this achievement has been and continues to be, it is lamentable that so few American scholars and prospective specialists have participated in these annual endeavors at Cambridge, one of the world's foremost institutions of higher education and second only to the University of Chicago in the number of Nobel Prize laureates. Indeed, beginning from the miniscule number of two American participants in the first GRM, representing one-fiftieth of the participants, the highest number of American participants to date has been just shy of 20, or one-fifteenth, the total.



**Gulf Research Center**  
Knowledge for All

Queried as to why this is the case, Dr. Anthony replied, "The following is opinion, not documented fact. From 1987 through 2008, scholars and specialists on Arabia and the Gulf within the GCC countries researched, located, and reached out to EU university professors and research institute specialists who shared their interests. This had no counterpart between the GCC and the United States, for reasons owing to the latter's comparable lack of interest. The result was a

dramatically asymmetrical pairing of GCC and EU scholars on Arabia and the Gulf. The educational, knowledge, understanding, and policymaking consequences of this are hardly unknown. They can be seen in the post-September 11, 2001 American reaction to Arabs and Muslims, a reaction that, since then, has intensified. It was seen also in the invasion and occupation of Iraq as well as in pan-GCC shock at perceived official U.S. lack of empathy as exhibited in Washington officialdom's unwillingness to allay GCC countries' dismay at unchecked Iranian meddling in GCC country and other Arab affairs."

## The National Council's Model Arab League Student Leaders Visit Qatar

The National Council, in partnership with the Embassy of Qatar in Washington, DC, organized and escorted a delegation of ten American students and five university faculty members, all selected from the Council's Model Arab League Program, on a study visit to Qatar from November 27 to December 4, 2015. The visit provided the students and faculty an opportunity to explore some of the major economic, political, and social determinants of Qatar's culture as well as features pertaining to the country's rapid and diverse modernization and development.



Dr. John Duke Anthony greets Dr. Abdullah Baabood, Founding Director of Qatar University's Gulf Studies Program, the GCC region's first accredited university program for Gulf studies to offer Master's and Ph.D. degrees. Dr. Anthony is the only American on the Qatar University Gulf Studies Program Advisory Board.

National Council Founding President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony and Council staff members Mark Morozink and Kaylee Boalt escorted the delegation. As with the Council's study visit to



The National Council's Model Arab League delegation visits the world-renowned Museum of Islamic Art on the corniche in Doha. Its iconic building, designed by I. M. Pei, includes Islamic art from three continents spanning over 1,400 years.

Saudi Arabia (see pages 18-20), the students all had a minimum of two semesters remaining before completing their undergraduate degree. This ensures their having *full year to share what they learned in and about Qatar* not only with their classmates and professors, but, most especially, members of their respective communities' civic, business, and professional associations.

The delegation visited Qatar’s Al Jazeera Media Network, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, the National Human Rights Committee, the Qatar Foundation, Ras Laffan Industrial City, Ooredoo Telecommunications, and the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy. They explored the Museum of Islamic Art, Souq Waqif, the Katara Cultural Village, and the Msheireb Museums, including Bin Jelmoed House, the first museum to focus on slavery in the Arab world. The delegation also spent an evening with a Qatari family at their farm and sailed on an Arab dhow – a traditional “sundowner” experience, with Doha’s glittering skyline of modernist buildings as the backdrop.

Dr. Anthony helped arrange for the delegation to meet and have briefings with the founding director and head of Qatar University’s Gulf Studies Program (GSP), for which Dr. Anthony serves as the only American member of the advisory board. Established and led by Dr. Abdullah Baabood in conjunction with College of Arts and Sciences Dean Dr. Eiman Mustafawi and University President Dr. Hassan Rashid Al-Derham, the GSP aims to become the world’s foremost center for Gulf studies. It is also the GCC region’s first accredited university program for Gulf studies to offer Master’s and Ph.D. degrees.



The National Council’s Model Arab League delegation tours Al Jazeera and watches a live broadcast from one of its television studios.



The National Council’s Model Arab League delegation sailed on an Arab dhow and took in Doha’s impressive skyline.



The National Council’s Model Arab League delegation surveys Education City from a viewing platform at the headquarters of The Qatar Foundation. Education City, on the outskirts of Doha, brings together branches of eight leading international universities as well as other educational, research, and cultural initiatives on one campus.

## Annual University Student Washington, DC Internship Program

The National Council's Model Arab League/Arab-U.S. Relations Youth Leadership Development Program, highlighted in *Council Chronicle* Vol. 9, No. 2, has been linked for many years to the Council's **Annual University Student Washington, DC Summer Internship Program**. The Summer Intern Program's participants are alumni of the Models and other rising young American and Arab leaders of tomorrow. U.S. Ambassador (Ret.) Edward Gnehm made it possible for the 2015 program to be administered again in association with The George Washington University's (GWU) Institute for Middle East Studies in the Elliott School of International Affairs. Ambassador Gnehm is a member of the GWU faculty where he is the Kuwait Professor of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Affairs. As in previous years, the 2015 Internship Program provided fertile training ground and an invaluable firsthand professional work experience for young American leaders

interested in a career devoted to improving U.S.-Arab relations.

The program, which lasted from May 25 to July 31, 2015, provided 25 students an opportunity to work in the nation's capital at one of 18 international affairs organizations. All 18 organizations have for years worked hand-in-hand with the National Council to administer this unique program – the only one of its kind to be found anywhere. Each is involved in one way or another in efforts to improve Arab-U.S. relations. A distinguishing feature of the program is that by its very nature it could not possibly be duplicated or paralleled by the students' university studies on campus. A further hallmark of the experience – one not known to be matched by any U.S.-Arab relations student internship program elsewhere – is that, in addition to working full time in their host organizations, the interns met and were briefed as



Internship program participants complete a 20-session academic seminar held at The George Washington University with National Council Founding President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony as the seminar's lead lecturer/resource specialist.

well as mentored several times a week by some of America's most renowned specialists in international relations as they pertain to the Arab world.

By design, the primary focus of the academic component of the program is also unique: it centers on a sub-region of the Arab countries, the Middle East, and the Islamic world, namely Arabia and the Gulf. The reason relates to three truisms. Each one has implications for American and other countries' needs, concerns, interests, relations, and key foreign policy objectives.

*First*, this particular region, together with its maritime and aviation routes, has long been regarded globally as the epicenter of the most strategically and economically vital energy resources that drive the engines of the world's economies.

*Second*, Arabia and the Gulf remain front and center among some of the most pressing international issues relating to war and peace as well as world economic growth. Indeed, it is the one part of the planet more than any other to which, on three separate occasions, hundreds of thousands of U.S. annual forces personnel and other foreign militaries have been mobilized and deployed in the past three decades.



National Council Internship Program participants visited The Islamic Center of Washington, a mosque and cultural center on Embassy Row, where they met with and were briefed by the local Imam.

*Third*, the ongoing importance to much of humankind represented by these nine countries – Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen – is undeniable. Despite this, the number of Americans who specialize in this sub-region and its member states – or who can legitimately claim to be

well-informed about the external and internal political dynamics of these countries – remains exceptionally limited.

objectives is to increase the number of foreign affairs practitioners who are as knowledgeable of Arabia and the Gulf's internal and external dynamics as possible. To that end, most of the lectures and discussion sessions address issues related, on one hand, to the dynamics of the member-states' systems of governance, political realities, economic and social development, and their foreign relations, and, on the other, American relations with this Arab sub-region and its neighbors – and vice versa.



National Council President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony addressed the interns on eight occasions – in this one on the topic of “Understanding the Arab World: Lenses Through Which to Look and Learn.”

In no way can this situation be considered healthy. Neither is it reflective of what is necessary in terms of conserving and sustaining the area's security, stability, and prospects for prosperity. Nor is it representative of what needs to be in place if the United States expects to be able to hold its own, let alone be regarded by others, as a responsible actor with regard to this particular region's affairs, Americas relationships with its people, and the legitimate interests of those who live and work in the countries concerned.

Accordingly, one of the program's educational

Internship Program alumni currently serve as senior diplomats in American embassies in the Arab world and elsewhere, in U.S. government Executive Branch agencies as well as Congressional Committees dealing with U.S.-Arab policy issues, major national and international print as well as broadcast media, leading American corporations engaged in U.S.-Arab trade, investment, technology cooperation, and the establishment of joint commercial ventures, and as teachers of Arabic and Arab area studies in American universities.

The Arab-U.S. relations programs, activities, and functions represented by the eighteen organizations and corporations that provided the professional work experience component of the past



The interns visited the U.S. Department of State during one of their weekly excursions that allowed them to explore some of America's most important government institutions.

year's program are varied. Included among their missions and activities are U.S.-Arab educational development and exchanges, bimonthly and quarterly publications, humanitarian relief services, public broadcasting, academic area studies, international transportation, foreign trade, and peace and justice advocacy. An additional feature of the Internship Program is site visits to public and private sector institutions such as Arab embassies, energy corporations, Congressional Committees, and government agencies.

Administering the 2015 program were National Council President **Dr. John Duke Anthony** as Chairman and lead lecturer/resource specialist; Director of Student Programs Josh Hilbrand as Coordinator; and additional support from staff

members Kaylee Boalt, Laura Tucker, and Nabil Sharaf as Assistants. Also included among the many briefers and specialists were **Mr. Bill Corcoran**, President, American Near East Refugee Aid; **Dr. Amal Amireh**, Associate Professor, George Mason University; **The Honorable Molly Williamson**, former Senior Foreign Policy Adviser to the Secretary of Energy, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, and Distinguished Scholar-In-Residence at the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations as well as the Middle East Institute; **Dr. Judith Yaphe**, Senior Research Fellow and Middle East Project Director, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University and former Senior Analyst on Near East-Persian Gulf issues,

Directorate of Intelligence, CIA; **Ms. Michelle Upton**, Vice President and Managing Editor, *Al-Monitor*; **Bassel Korkor, Esq.**, Legal Director for the United Nations and United Nations Missions of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces; **Professor David Des Roches**, Associate Professor and Senior Military Fellow, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University and National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Malone Fellow in Arab and Islamic Studies in Syria; **Ambassador (Ret.) Patrick Theros**, President and Executive Director, US-Qatar Business Council; **Ambassador (Ret.) Walter Cutler**, former United States Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Iran (Ambassador-designate) and Congo/Zaire; **Mr. Salman Al Jalahma**, Media Attaché for the Embassy of Bahrain; **Dr. Nawaf Obaid**, Visiting Fellow at Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science

and International Affairs; **Ms. Dana Stroul** and **Mr. David Kinzler** from the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee; **Dr. Peter Bechtold**, former Chairman, Near East North Africa Area Studies Program, Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State; **Ms. Mary Jane Deeb**, Chief of the African and Middle Eastern Division at the Library of Congress; **Dr. Thomas Mattair**, Executive Director of the Middle East Policy Council; **Ms. Elizabeth Wossen**, Member of the National Council's Board of Directors; **Ms. Kathy Tcyz** from the U.S. Supreme Court; and **Dr. Abderrahim Foukara**, U.S. Bureau Chief of Al-Jazeera.



Internship program participants' experience is one that could not be duplicated or paralleled by the students' university studies on campus.

## National Council's Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies Program Annual Cultural Immersion Visit to Oman

In February, a delegation of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) officers, National Council Malone Fellows in Arab and Islamic Studies, and other American foreign affairs specialists participated in the Council's 19th Annual Cultural Immersion Program in Oman. The delegation was led by National Council Founding President & CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, Council Board Member John Pratt, and staff member Josh Hilbrand.

Since its inception in 1996, this particular National Council program has been and remains one of a kind. Many of the Council's programs in other Arab countries examine policymaking issues and topics related to economic and social development. The Council's programs in Oman for the past 19 years, however, have been and remain different. They are designed to provide hard-to-come-by information and empirical insight into not just



Malone Fellows explored the vibrant market in Sinaw, in the eastern region of Oman, where they walked among and communed with men and women in their traditional dress, perused the locally produced handicrafts in gold and silver, and observed the brisk sales in fish, goats, and household wares.

these kinds of issues but also, and especially, into Oman's cultural and anthropological themes.

The program unfolds primarily in *half a dozen different regions outside the Sultanate's capital of Muscat*. It does so in order to allow delegation members to experience the dynamics of what is not only one of the Arab world's most demographically, geographically, economically, and socially diverse countries. It does so also because of Oman's position adjacent to the Hormuz Strait, arguably the most strategically vital waterway on earth, through which one fifth of the world's globally traded oil transits daily. The program provides context, background, and perspective related to a broad range of dynamics that influence Oman's national development processes as well as its domestic priorities, international relations, and foreign policy objectives.

Before their departure for Oman, the Fellows participated in a two-day orientation program. Featured were (1) Dr. John Duke Anthony; (2) Ambassador Richard Schmierer, former U.S. Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman and member of the Board of Directors of the Middle East Policy Council and the Public Diplomacy Council; (3) Dr. Herman Franssen, President of International Energy Associates, Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies Energy and National Security Program, and former Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals, Sultanate of Oman; (4) Col. Louis Dupuis, Gulf Cooperation Division Chief, and Richard W. Jackson, Staff Member in the Arabian Peninsula and Iraq Division in the Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate (J-5) on the Joint Staff; (5) Dr. Imad Harb, Distinguished International Affairs Fellow at the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations; (6) Professor Linda Pappas Funsch, Professor at Hood College and Frederick Community College



The National Council's Malone Fellow delegation explored half a dozen regions in the Sultanate's interior outside the capital of Muscat. In doing so, the delegation experienced firsthand the dynamics of one of the Arab world's most demographically, geographically, economically, and socially diverse countries.

and National Council Malone Fellow to Oman and Morocco; and (7) Professor David Des Roches, Associate Professor and Senior Military Fellow, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, U.S. Department of Defense.

Upon arrival in Oman, the delegation members participated in meetings and briefings by officials at the U.S. Embassy and Omani government ministries. They visited Bait Al Zubair, one of Oman's world class cultural and historical museums in Muttrah, the commercial center of the capital territory. In addition, the Fellows spent time along the country's coasts, crisscrossing its numerous mountains and wadis, as well as camping under a moonlit and star-strewn sky in a desert outpost situated in Oman's vast Sharqiyah (Eastern)

Sands, where they were hosted by members of the Al-Harthy, the region's most prominent tribe.

Further into the interior, the Fellows visited remote villages, hilltop hamlets, and little known fruit and vegetable gardens tucked beneath groves of trees clinging to hillsides. In so doing, the participants were able to observe the country's fisher folk, boat builders, weavers, potters, the faithful at prayer, women at work and at leisure, and school children at study and at play.

The Fellows also visited Salalah, the second largest city in Oman, capital of Dhofar Province, birthplace of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, and site of the tomb of the Biblical prophet Job. In addition, in Jabrin and Nizwa, the Fellows made their way on foot through the architectural mazes



Fifteenth-century Fort Mirani in Muscat.



Malone Fellows explored the dunes of the Sharqiyyah Sands, an eastern extension of the Rub' Al-Khali (The Empty Quarter), the world's largest desert.

and defense mechanisms of two of the country's centuries-old forts.

Through mountains, deserts, wadis, and sea, the experience unfolded along the shores and inland reaches of the Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea, and other storied places. All this transpired with Dr. Anthony and alongside an extraordinary Omani guide, Badar al-Yazeedi, who personified Oman's long history of residence and interaction within Arabia, the Gulf, and the Indian Ocean as well as Central and East Africa.



A sixteenth-century Portuguese cannon looks out from the Nizwa Fort. Nizwa is an historical center of scholarly learning and traditional education that has long been closely linked to Ibadi Muslim communities in Algeria, Libya, East Africa, and elsewhere.

## 24th Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference

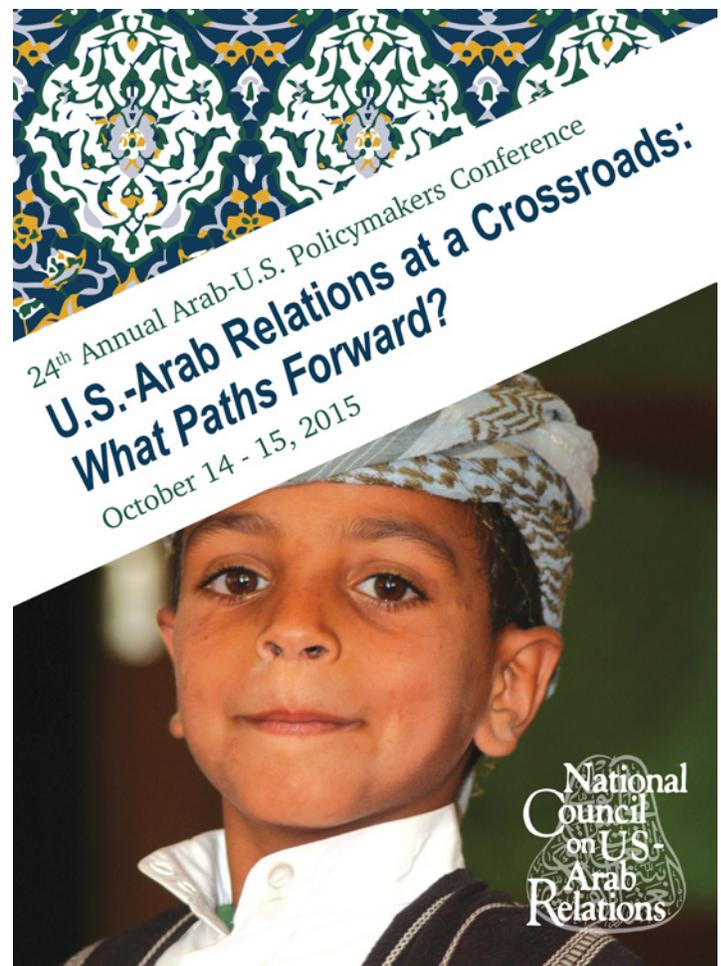
### *U.S.-Arab Relations at a Crossroads: What Paths Forward?*

The National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' 24th Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference, chaired by its Founding President and CEO Dr. John Duke Anthony, was held October 14-15, 2015, at the Ronald Regan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC. For the fifth consecutive year the conference registered more than 1,000 attendees. The theme of the 2015 conference was “**U.S.-Arab Relations at a Crossroads: What Paths Forward?**” and it featured forty-six speakers who analyzed, discussed, and debated issues of over-arching importance to the American and Arab people's needs, concerns, interests, and key foreign policy objectives.

Featured specialists included current and former ambassadors from the United States and various Arab countries, key U.S. government officials, and scholars and representatives of non-governmental organizations and public policy research institutes. Over two days conference sessions explored various dynamics of the United States relationship with the Arab world, including energy and defense, business relations, and geo-political implications of developments in Syria, Iraq, the Arabian Gulf, Egypt and North Africa, and Palestine.

**His Royal Highness Prince Turki Al Faisal** delivered a keynote address on the first day of the conference that outlined three key pillars of Saudi Arabia's foreign policy: unity, stability, and responsibility; and also reflected on recent developments in the region. The second day of the conference featured a keynote address from **Dr. Khalaf Al Habtoor**, Chairman of the Al

Habtoor Group, and a businessman, writer, and philanthropist. Dr. Al Habtoor lamented the death and destruction in Syria and the daily suffering of Palestinians, and called for actions to address these vulnerable populations.



The keynote speakers were supplemented by sessions on issues such as Arab-U.S. energy cooperation; the Gulf Cooperation Council; defense partnerships; trade, investment, commerce, and



HRH Prince Turki Al Faisal delivers a keynote address at the 24th Arab U.S.-Policymakers Conference.

joint business relations; and regional geo-political dynamics.

Throughout the Conference, the American Educational Trust, publisher of the award-winning *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, sold books and Palestinian crafts.

The 24th Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference was a resounding success, providing the American and Arab public – whether in attendance, following the proceedings online, watching on C-Span, or reading about the conference through media coverage – with a wide-ranging look at Arab-U.S. relations. In keeping with their inception in 1991, the Conference comprised speakers with challenging and controversial views. Throughout the two-days of shared ideas, intense discussions and debate, and extensive networking among attendees and participants, the Conference

not only furthered the Council’s educational mission of enhancing American awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the Arab and Islamic worlds. It also provided much food for thought in the form of practical suggestions and recommendations for ways to improve the overall Arab-U.S. relationship.

The Conference’s entire transcripts, together with its video- and audio-recorded proceedings, are available via the Council’s website at [ncusar.org](http://ncusar.org).

### **Read, Watch, or Listen to the 2015 Policymakers Conference Proceedings:**

<http://ncusar.org/auspc/2015>



**Dr. John Duke Anthony**



**The Hon. Molly Williamson**



**H.E. Ambassador  
Ahmed Awad Bin Mubarak**



**Dr. Khalaf Al Habtoor**



**Dr. Judith Yaphe**



**Dr. Abderrahim Foukara**



**Ms. Nahlah A. Al-Jubeir**



**Mr. Khaled Almaeena**



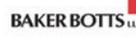
**H.E. Ambassador Lukman Failly**

# 24th Annual Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference

## U.S.-Arab Relations at a Crossroads: What Paths Forward?



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## National Council Public Affairs Briefings

### Yemen in Chaos: Analysis, Prognosis, and Prospects

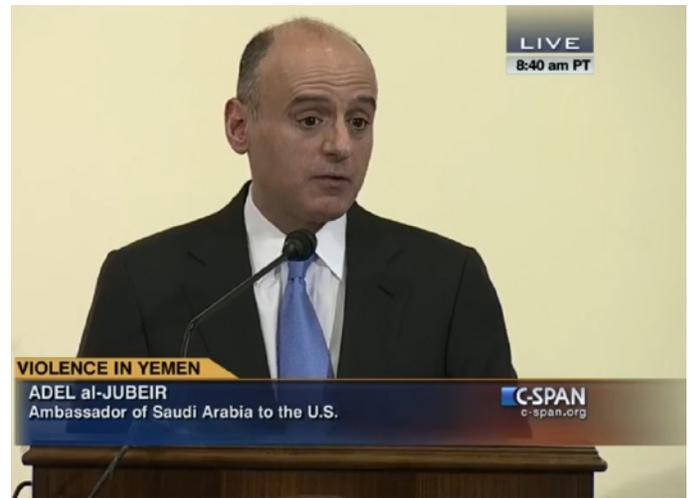
April 2, 2015

*Context Provider and Moderator:*

- **Dr. John Duke Anthony**, Founding President & CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

*Participating Specialists:*

- **H.E. Adel A. Al-Jubeir**, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United States
- **Mr. Jeremy M. Sharp**, Specialist in Middle East Affairs, Congressional Research Service; Author, CRS Report “Yemen: Background and U.S. Relations”
- **Mr. Abbas Almosawa**, Yemeni Journalist and Analyst; former Media and Information Advisor, Embassy of the Republic of Yemen in Abu Dhabi and Beirut
- **Professor David Des Roches**, Senior Military Fellow, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University; Malone Fellow in Arab and Islamic Studies (Syria), National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



- **Ms. Sama'a Al-Hamdani**, Analyst and Writer, *Yemeniaty*; former Assistant Political Officer, Embassy of the Republic of Yemen in Washington, DC



# Assessing the Iran Nuclear Deal: Issues and Implications

April 8, 2015

Context Provider and Moderator:

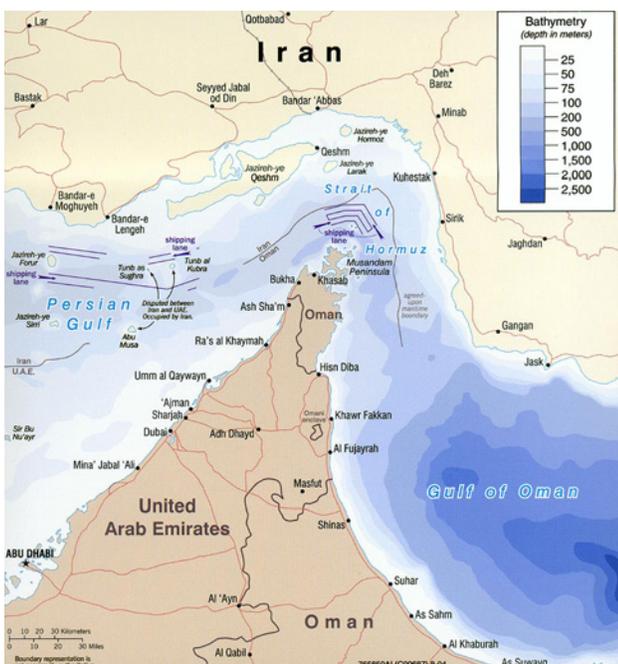
- **Mr. John Pratt**, Member, Board of Directors, and Distinguished International Affairs Fellow, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

Participating Specialists:

- **Dr. John Duke Anthony**, Founding President & CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
- **H.E. Ambassador Seyed Hossein Mousavian**, Associate Research Scholar, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University and former Spokesman for Iran in nuclear negotiations with the European Union
- **Dr. Thomas Mattair**, Executive Director, Middle East Policy Council
- **Dr. Kenneth Katzman**, Specialist in Middle East Affairs in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division, Congressional Research Service
- **Dr. Imad Harb**, Distinguished International Affairs Fellow, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
- **Dr. Paul Sullivan**, Senior International Affairs Fellow, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



Dr. John Duke Anthony



## After a Nuclear Agreement: Whither Arab-Iranian and U.S.-GCC Relations?

May 12, 2015

*Context Provider and Moderator:*

- **Mr. John Pratt**, Member, Board of Directors, and Distinguished International Affairs Fellow, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

*Participating Specialists:*

- **Dr. John Duke Anthony**, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
- **Dr. Christian Koch**, Director, Gulf Research Center Foundation (Geneva, Switzerland)
- **Dr. Sara Vakhshouri**, President, SVB Energy International
- **Dr. Thomas Mattair**, Executive Director, Middle East Policy Council
- **Dr. Alidad Mafinezam**, President, West Asia Council
- **Dr. Imad Harb**, Distinguished International Affairs Fellow, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



Dr. Christian Koch



Dr. Thomas Mattair



Dr. John Duke Anthony

# Leadership Changes in Saudi Arabia: What Implications for the Kingdom, the Region, and the U.S.?

May 22, 2015

*Context Provider and Moderator:*

- **Dr. John Duke Anthony**, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

*Featured Specialist:*

- **Dr. Nawaf Obaid**, Visiting Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University; Lecturer, London Academy of Diplomacy, Stirling University; Senior Fellow, King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies



Dr. Nawaf Obaid

# Yemen in Crisis: What Next?

June 29, 2015

*Context Provider and Moderator:*

- **Dr. John Duke Anthony**, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

*Participating Specialists:*

- **Dr. Noel Brehony**, Chair, Menas Associates; Former Chair, British Yemeni Society; Author, *Yemen Divided: The Story of a Failed State in South Arabia*
- **Ms. Sama'a Al-Hamdani**, Analyst and Writer, *Yemeniaty*; former Assistant Political Officer, Embassy of the Republic of Yemen in Washington, DC
- **Mr. Peter Salisbury**, Journalist and Analyst, *Financial Times*, *The Economist*, *Vice News*, and other publications; former Consultant, Chatham House Yemen Forum



## A Conversation with Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary General H.E. Dr. Abdul Latif Al Zayani

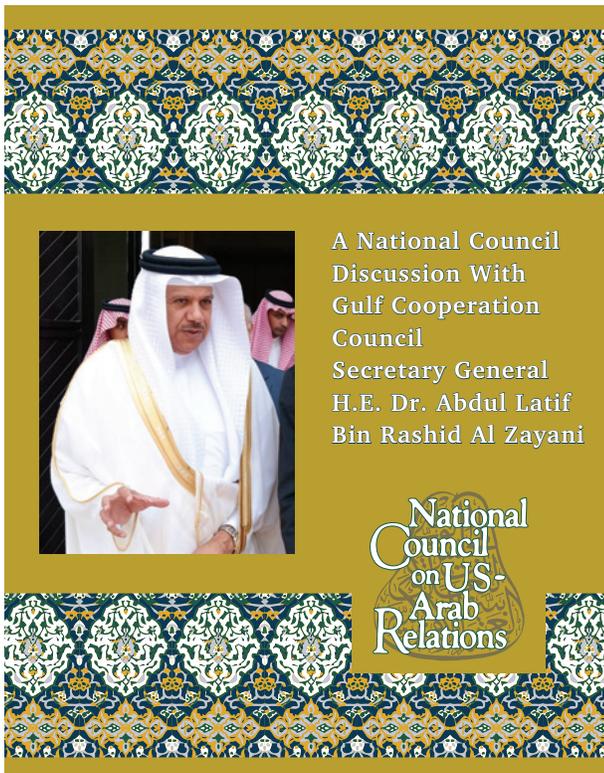
September 18, 2015

*Context Provider and Moderator:*

- **Dr. John Duke Anthony**, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

*Featured Specialist:*

- **H.E. Dr. Abdul Latif Al Zayani**, Secretary General, Gulf Cooperation Council



The National Council published a summary of GCC Secretary General Al Zayani's analyses and assessments from this special briefing, which is [available on the Council's website](#).

## Analyzing and Assessing Saudi Arabian Defense Strategy

October 6, 2015

*Context Provider and Moderator:*

- **Dr. John Duke Anthony**, Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

*Featured Specialist:*

- **HRH Navy Captain (Ret.) Prince Sultan Bin Khalid Al-Faisal Al Sa'ud**, President, Al Joshan Security Services; Former Commander, Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) Counter-Insurgency Special Operations Task Force; Designer and Inaugural Commandant, RSNF Special Forces Training Center



HRH Navy Captain (Ret.)  
Prince Sultan Bin Khalid Al-Faisal Al Sa'ud

# ***Oman Reborn: Balancing Tradition and Modernization Book Discussion***

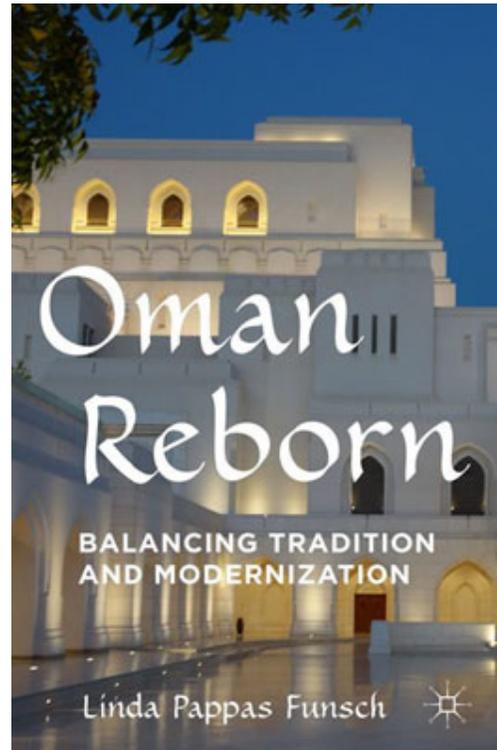
December 8, 2015

*Context Provider and Moderator:*

- **Ms. Randa Fahmy**, Treasurer and Board Member, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations

*Featured Specialist:*

- **Ms. Linda Pappas Funsch**, Author, *Oman Reborn: Balancing Tradition and Modernization*; Malone Fellow to Oman and Morocco, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



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## Financial Summary

Figures are from the most recent audited fiscal period available – Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2015.

### Revenue

<b>Primary Revenue</b>	\$2,548,717
<b>Other Revenue</b>	\$95,523
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,644,240</b>

### Expenses

<b>Program Expenses</b>	\$1,368,324
Model Arab League — \$330,987	
Malone Fellowship Program — \$198,260	
Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference — \$414,685	
Summer Intern Program — \$221,657	
Alwaleed Fellowship Program — \$65,859	
Congressional Briefings — \$136,876	
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>	\$177,827
<b>Fundraising Expenses</b>	\$55,613
<b>Loss on Investments</b>	\$144,658
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,746,422</b>
<b>Excess for the Fiscal Year</b>	<b>\$897,818</b>
<b>End of Fiscal Year Net Assets</b>	<b>\$3,167,212</b>

## Board of Directors

### *Chairman*

**Mr. David Bosch**; also: former Director, Washington Office, Aramco Services Company; former Vice Chairman, American Business Council of the Gulf Countries; former President, American Business Association of the Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia; and former Board Member of the Middle East Institute, the World Affairs Council of Washington, DC, the Textile Museum of Washington, DC, and Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies;

### *Founding President and Chief Executive Officer*

**Dr. John Duke Anthony**; also: Knighted by Moroccan King Muhammad VI with the Order of *Ouissam Alaouite*, Morocco's highest award for excellence; Member, U.S. Department of State Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy and its Subcommittees on Sanctions as well as Trade and Investment; Chairman, North American Bridge Network, a consortium of American nongovernmental recipients of grants from Alwaleed Philanthropies; Adjunct Associate Professor, U.S. Department of Defense Institute for Security Assistance Management (1974 - present); Dean's Visiting Chair in International Studies and Political Science, teaching "Politics of the Arabian Peninsula" at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia (2012); former Adjunct Professor, teaching "Politics of Arabia and the Gulf," Georgetown University Edmund G. Walsh's Graduate School (2006-2011); former Advanced Arabian Studies Seminar Chairman and Near East and North Africa Program Chairman, U.S. Department of State; former Saudi Arabia Studies Program Chairman, U.S. Department of the Treasury; former Adjunct Professor, teaching "Strategic Issues of Middle East Petroleum," Joint Defense Intelligence College, U.S. Department of Defense; and former Adjunct Professor, teaching "The Arabian Peninsula and Gulf Countries," U.S. Naval Postgraduate School;

### *Treasurer*

**Ms. Randa Fahmy**; also: President, Fahmy Hudome International; General Counsel for the American Egyptian Strategic Alliance; former Associate Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy; and former Congressional staff member responsible for dealing with policy pertaining to foreign affairs and international energy issues;

### *Vice Treasurer*

**Ms. Elizabeth Wossen**; also: Principal, Energy Links Group, LLC; Senior Advisor, Global Business Forum; and former Coordinator, Congressional and Government Relations, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, USA;

**Ms. Paige Peterson**; also: Senior Vice President, Huntsman Cancer Foundation;

**Mr. John Pratt**; also: former long-time executive, Saudi Aramco; former Vice President, American Business Association of the Eastern Province; and former Chairman, Middle East Council of the American Chambers of Commerce;

**Mr. H. Delano Roosevelt**; also: Director of New Business Development, Reza Investment Group; and former Chairman, Middle East Council of American Chambers of Commerce; and

**Mr. Oliver Zandona**; also: former Vice President, Public and Government Affairs, ExxonMobil Iraq; and Manager, Middle East and North Africa, International Government Relations, ExxonMobil.

### *Board Member Emeritus*

**Dr. Mario A. Pascale**; also: former member, Board of Trustees, World Learning, Inc.; founding Director, National Council California Committee on U.S.-Arab Relations; Delegation Leader for National Council professorial and student delegates to Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen; and recipient of the National Council's first *Distinguished Achievement Award* and the Council's *Distinguished Public Service Award*.



# What will your legacy be?

Accomplishing the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' educational, training, and leadership development mission cannot be achieved by accident or coincidence. It can be realized only through a steady stream of resources from individuals and families that have benefited from the Council's educational programs, projects, events, and activities, and benefactors who believe in what the Council seeks to accomplish.

*Investment in the National Council – at any level and at any point in one's life – will make a difference for generations to come.*

Contributing to the National Council is a powerful and meaningful way for one to strengthen the Council's philanthropic legacy. Inclusion of the Council in one's will is a guaranteed means of bequeathing resources to ensure a lasting impact on the Arab-U.S. relationship for far into the future.



**National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations**  
1730 M St NW, Suite 503, Washington, DC  
Telephone: (202) 293-6466

[ncusar.org](http://ncusar.org)

*For more information about your personal legacy promoting the Arab-U.S. relationship, please contact:*

**Mr. Pat Mancino**, Executive Vice President & Director of Development  
Telephone: 202-293-6466  
Email: [pat@ncusar.org](mailto:pat@ncusar.org)

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I bequeath \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my residuary estate (or \$ \_\_\_\_\_) to the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, a not-for-profit organization, with its office at 1730 M St NW, Suite 503, Washington, DC 20036, for its ongoing educational programs (or name a specific National Council program, e.g., the Model Arab League, Malone Fellowship, Summer Internship Program, or Findley Fellowship).  
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